DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mahalinga Mudaliyar, I see no justification at all for Government enhancing the grant for the Nagercoil Municipality. It has already got a large surplus, comparatively speaking an accumulation of over Rs. 18,000. That being the case, I do not see any need exists for a further measure of assistance in the shape of enhanced annual grants.

Then you come to the question of the discontinuance of the pensionary contribution. If the Municipality expect Government to pay Municipal servants pensions, they must be prepared to pay their contribution according to the rules. Government are not going to pay for the free distribution of pension at the tax-payers' expense to the employés of the Nagercoil Municipality. If you want, a provident fund of your own may be raised and the Government will not object.

As regards free supply of lymph for vaccination, maintenance of public health is one of the first duties of the Municipality and they cannot expect Government to relieve them of the cost of doing that duty. The lymph must be paid for by the Municipality as at present.

Then you want the consultation fee to the Head Sirkar Vakil to be discontinued. The Head Sirkar Vakil is retained by Government on a small salary for doing a certain class of work for the Government. They cannot in fairness demand his experience, time and services to be given free to the Municipalities. If the Municipality does not want his advice and does not want to pay for his advice, there is no obligation on the Municipality to go to him.

In regard to the removal of arrack and toddy shops you will find the general policy of the Government in respect of that outlined in the *Administration Report*. This matter is also being dealt with by the Excise Commissioner in individual cases. Wherever possible, he is moving the arrack shop or toddy shop to unobjectionable surroundings.

As regards grazing grounds, I would draw your attention to what I said on the subject last year.

In regard to water supply, Government have made a preliminary enquiry into the matter, but if the Municipality think that certain tanks would supply all the good water that the Nagercoil town needs, they are at perfect liberty to evolve their own water supply scheme.

As regards the transfer of *satrams*, I am sorry to say that no change is possible at present.

What you say about Settlement Registers will be duly considered.

129. Needs of Padmanabhapuram.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) stated that the western fort-gate was the most important gate of the Padmanabhapuram Fort. It was the meeting place of the roads leading to Kulasekharam, Pechippara and other places. The road to Thuckalai ran southward and that to Kulasekharam northward from thence. Wheeled traffic, chiefly motor traffic, was very busy on those roads. But the fort-gate itself was so narrow that two carriages could not pass each other there, and accidents were very common. The fort-gate should, therefore, be widened. This was not a very costly work as it would be necessary only to remove the stone structure on either side.

Padmanabhapuram was once the capital of the State. But it lost its historic importance because of the malarial climate and consequent emigration elsewhere. At Tuckalai, which was rapidly rising in importance, rents were as high as in Puttanchantai in Trivandrum, while Padmanabhapuram near by was very thinly populated. The traders had all removed to Tuckalai and business in Padmanabhapuram was declining. In order to revive the town and restore some of its old importance, the local Municipal Council had suggested the removal of the Taluk Cutcherry, Kalkulam, the Sub-Registrar's office and the Sanketham Tahsildar's office to the Fort. But the Government had not taken any action on the proposal. If it was accepted, the rent

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paid for buildings for holding public offices would be saved. They could be located in the building in which the old Division Cutcherry and the First Class Magistrate's court were housed.

The finances of the local Municipal Council did not permit them to undertake any public works. The Government should sanction the levy of tolls on village roads to enable the council to improve its resources.

The employès of the Municipal Council should be given admission to the Sanitary classes. There were many who had passed the School Leaving Examination and were eligible for admission, to such classes. The training would help the employès to get further promotions in service.

The Pattanikulam was the only tank useful for bathing purposes but its banks were in disrepair. Further, it was open to the view of the people walking along the Kulasekharam road running close by. The tank should therefore be repaired and privacy afforded by the construction of parapet walls.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, in regard to the widening of the western fort-gate, I do not know whose businesss it is exactly. The Chief Engineer says he has nothing to do with that. The Municipality has probably got a responsibility. Under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Regulation, I do not know whether the Dewan Peishkar is responsible. Anyway I think the Chief Engineer and the Dewan Peishkar will go and inspect the place together and see what they can do, and submit their recommendations to the Government, and the Government, will get the work done if it can be done without detriment to the intrinsic merits of this historic and ancient monument.

In regard to the removal of the three *cutcherries* from Tuckalai to Padmanabhapuram you tell me that shop-keepers won't go there, the merchants won't move to and stay at Padmanabhapuram to fill its vacant halls and houses. Therefore you would transport the various Government offices to Padmanabhapuram. After all the only justification for the existence of various Government offices is the service of the public. Therefore Government officers have to go and stay where they are required by the public. In that connection I would read out to you what I said last time on the same subject :

"Offices will have to remain where the work lies ; where the need lies and not where historical associations would suggest or local partriotism dictate."

So I am afraid I cannot move these *cutcherries* merely to fill ancient and untenanted buildings.

In regard to the levy of tolls by the Municipality, will you kindly tell me how much the Municipality spends on the construction and maintenance of the particular road on which you wish to levy this toll ? What service does it render in return for this toll ? Or shall we leave that as a rhetorical question ?

As regards your Municipal employés and the pay you give them, and the manner of your selection, you have got to remember that the municipality is an independent body and the Government must not interfere in its ordinary affairs.

As regards the Pattanikulam tank, I think that the matter of repairing the tank is purely a municipal matter. And as you know, the municipality is the outward and visible sign of self-government, government of the people by the people. That being the case, the Government must not interfere with their rights : the right of keeping the tanks and wells in proper order is a sacred trust of the municipality.

130. Needs of the Colachel town.

MR. MATEVAN PILLAI NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Colachel*) first spoke about the need for a Munsiff's Court at Colachel. Colachel was an important place and one of the very few municipal towns that had no Munsiff's Courts. He prayed that one of the two Munsiffs' Courts at Padmanabhapuram should be transferred to Colachel. The same matter was pressed at the Assembly last year but the Government did not give a favourable reply.

Prior to the separation of the Revenue Department from Magistracy, there was a Magistrate's Court at Colachel. Colachel being the scene of many riots and other

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